

**November 6, 2024
9200 Basil Court
Largo, MD 20774
Virtual Hearing**

Present:

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Chair
Armando Camacho, Vice Chair
Tammie Norman, Commissioner
Dennis Smith, Commissioner
Tammy Sparkman, Commissioner
Terence Sheppard, Director
Alecia Hughes, Assistant to Director
Robert Clark, Chief Liquor Inspector
Cristian Mendoza, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Leonard Vauss, Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector
Patricia Bell, Administrative Manager
Katrice James, Administrative Aide
Keyanna Little, Administrative Aide
Ariana Posada-Mejia, Administrative Aide

Start Time: 7:01 p.m.

Commissioner Bridgwaters-Simms: At the Board of License Commissioners, we endeavor to be as efficient as possible in our virtual environment. Thank you for your patience. This is a public meeting subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act so a truthful, transparent, open, and honest dialogue and record is required. As such, there are some formalities that will take place that may appear redundant but nonetheless are important and required to ensure compliance with the law.

Director Sheppard: During a typical hearing, there would be an exchange between the Board and the attorneys to exchange information as exhibits. Because this hearing is now virtual, we have implemented a 10-day rule to give those individuals here today, 10-days from today's date to add to the official record. I would ask that you email myself or the administrative staff of the BOLC. You may add information to the record long as it is information that has been discussed in this hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

1. Hersson Funes, President/Secretary/Treasurer, **t/a El Viajero Restaurant**, 1835 University Blvd. E, Suite 100, Hyattsville, 20783, for an alleged violation of Section 6-311, Purchase Alcoholic Beverages from other than a Wholesaler, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and R.R. No. 11 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit: On or about Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at approximately 3:50 p.m., Inspector Pascual of the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners conducted a Routine Inspection at the licensed premises, located at 1835 University Blvd., Adelphi, MD 20783. Inspector Pascual inquired about invoices and was presented with receipts from two different liquor stores, which is a violation under R.R. No. 11 (a) No license holder shall purchase any alcoholic beverage except from a duly licensed manufacturer or wholesaler. The licensee is subject to all potential penalties identified in the Alcoholic Beverage Article, Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and any other provision(s) governing said license, which may include other violation(s) identified at the hearing.

Mauricio Romero, a manager at the restaurant appeared before the Board. Licensee is out of town and will not return until December 14th.

Director Sheppard asked Board Attorney Jason DeLoach if the case can continue without the licensee. Attorney DeLoach informed the Board that the management team can only testify in support, and asked if the licensee had been served? Since the summons was served, it is up to the Board on how they want to proceed.

Commissioner Camacho moved to continue this matter until the licensee is available. Seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

2. **t/a Parkway Liquors**, Akash V. Patel, President/Secretary/Treasurer, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 6017 Parkway, Inc., 6017 Greenbelt Road, College Park, 20740. – **Request for a Delivery Permit. Represented by Robert Kim, Esquire.**

Mr. Kim stated that the delivery application was filed on or about September 25, 2024. He has discussed Rule and Regulation #76 with the licensee, and he understands the rule.

Commissioner Camacho moved to grant a Delivery Permit to **t/a Parkway Liquors**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

3. **t/a North South Liquors**, Ajay J, Gosain, President/Treasurer, Class A, Beer, Wine and Liquor, SDS, LLC, 8861 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, 20770. Request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit. **Represented by Benjamin Carter, Esquire.**

Attorney DeLoach stated for the record that he used to represent this establishment.

Mr. Carter informed the Board that his client is moving to a larger space within the same shopping center. He has spent well over six figures building the space and is aware of the \$50,000 capital expenditure requirement. There will be no problems satisfying this requirement and he hopes to be opened by the end of the month.

Commissioner Camacho moved to approve the request for a Special Sunday Sales Permit for **t/a North South Liquors**, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

4. Jemima Ablorh, Member, **t/a Aroma Ultra Lounge**, 4000 Town Center Blvd, Bowie, 20716, Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, is summonsed to show cause for an alleged violation, of Maryland Annotated Code 6-304 selling alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one and R.R. No. 1 Sales to a minor of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County. To wit: On Thursday, August 22, 2024, at approximately 8:10 PM, Inspector North and an 18-year-old underage operative (Ms. Beale-Chase D.O.B. 05/10/2006) from the Prince Georges County Summer Youth Program conducted an Underage Compliance Inspection at the Aroma Lounge, located at 4000 Town Center Blvd, Bowie, Maryland 20716. Once seated, the underage operative ordered a glass of Rum Punch. The bartender, Sharif Holt, proceeded to make and furnish the drink to the underage patron without asking for or checking her identification, which is a violation of R.R. #1, Sales to Minor, Selling, providing, or furnishing alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of 21. The licensee is subject to all potential penalties identified in the Alcoholic Beverage Article, Rule 26 of the Rules and Regulations for Prince George's County and any other provision(s) governing said license, which may include other violation(s) identified at the hearing. Failure to obey this summons may result in you being held in criminal contempt of Court, and a warrant may be issued for your arrest and/or attachment against you in accordance with the Alcoholic Beverage Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Furthermore, the licensee was previously found in violation on 2/18/23, R.R. No 7 Consumption of Bottle Goods on the Licensed Premises was fined \$10,000, On 2/3/23. R.R. No 37 Change in Mode of Operation and was fined \$7,500. Lastly, on 11/10/22 R.R. No 37 Change in Mode of Operation was fined \$5,000. **Represented by Eddie Pounds, Esquire.**

Inspector Clinkscale testified before the Board regarding the violation that occurred on August 22, 2024. The manager on duty was uncooperative and refused to sign the citation. He also took a picture of the inspector's ID.

Mr. Pounds stated that the bartender had stepped away from the bar, and the barback, had a lapse in judgment and poured the drink for the underage operative. Since this incident, Mr. Uhmoh has cleaned the house and suspended the barback was suspended for thirty (30) days without pay. The establishment is already \$71,000 in arrears on rent, without the sale of they cannot make payroll. Should the license be suspended, they are seeking clemency to defer suspension for sixty (60) days to honor current obligations.

Commissioner Camacho moved to revoke the license immediately, seconded by **Commissioner Sparkman**. **Commissioners Camacho and Sparkman** voted aye, while **Commissioners Norman, Smith and Chair** voted nay. **After Board vote, motion dies.**

Commissioner Smith motioned to suspend the revocation for sixty (60) days and suspend the license for thirty (30) days, effective February 25, 2025, ending on March 25, 2025. This will be held in abeyance until February 1, 2025. **Commissioner Norman** seconded the motion. However, the establishment must provide contracts to the Board within one (1) week. **Commissioners Smith and Norman** voted aye, while **Commissioners Camacho, Sparkman and Chair** voted nay. **After Board vote, motion dies.**

Commissioner Smith moved to suspend the license on February 1, 2025, for thirty (30) days. The establishment must provide to the Board contracts of events through the end of the year. Director Sheppard stated that the establishment did not renew its entertainment permit. Mr. Pounds stated that the establishment intends to renew the permit.

Commissioner Smith moved to suspend the license on February 1, 2025, for thirty (30) days. Contracts must be provided to the Board by November 7, 2024. If contracts are not submitted, the license will be revoked. **Commissioner Norman** seconded the motion. **Commissioners Smith, Norman and Chair** voted aye, while **Commissioners Camacho, Sparkman** voted nay. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

5. Sandipkumar G. Modi, Member-Manager, **t/a C.D. Liquors**, 4945 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights Maryland 20743, For an alleged violation of Rules and Regulations No. 39 of the Board of License Commissioners (BOLC) - Hours and Days of Sale for all Class A licenses - Specifically the establishment was selling alcoholic beverages past the approved hours of sale per Rule and Regulations. No holder of any Class A license, his/her agents, or employees, shall be permitted to make any sale of alcoholic beverages between the hours of 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and 6:00 a.m. or between the hours of 12:00 a.m. Sunday morning until 6:00 a.m. the following Monday. To wit: On Sunday, September 22, 2024, at approximately 12:09 a.m., Inspector Brandon Kinney, arrived at C.D. Liquors, located at 4945 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743, to conduct an After-Hours Inspection. Upon arriving, the Inspector observed a male employee standing in the front entrance of C.D. Liquors, allowing patrons to enter and exit the establishment. Unsure if C.D. Liquors was open or closed for business, the Inspector gestured to the employee to see if they were still accepting customers, and the employee, responded by waving him inside. Once inside, the Inspector observed a customer completing a purchase. The Inspector selected a six-pack of Corona and proceeded to the counter to complete his purchase. The transaction was completed by the cashier identified as Abdissa Maranatha at approximately 12:10:56 a.m. Further, as the Inspector was conversing with the Manager, another customer was allowed to enter C.D. Liquors and was allowed to purchase alcohol. The licensee has no previous violation in the past two years.

Licensee does not have an attorney, acknowledge his right to an attorney and agree to move forward without an attorney.

Inspector Brandon Kinney testified before the Board regarding the violation that occurred on September 22, 2024.

Mr. Modi testified that his father was working the door that evening and he did not want any unhappy customers, so he continued to let them in after closing.

Commissioner Camacho moved to find **t/a C.D. Liquors** in violation of Rule and Regulation #39 and assessed a fine of \$1,500 and mandatory training within ninety (90) days, seconded by **Commissioner Norman**. **After Board vote, motion carries.**

Adjourned 8:47 p.m.